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Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No.: 05408/100M235-US1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Chuen-Ing Tseng et al.

Application No.: 10/705,215

Confirmation No.: 2925

Filed: November 7, 2003

Art Unit: 1621

For: METHOD OF PREPARING QUATERNARY  
AMMONIUM HYDROXIDE AND  
QUATERNARY AMMONIUM CARBONATE  
IN AN AMINOALCOHOL SOLVENT

Examiner: C.O. Nwaonicha

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the December 13, 2004 Office Action, please consider the following remarks.

The Examiner has required restriction in this application among the claims of :

Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a method of preparing a quaternary ammonium hydroxide; and

Group II, claim 16, drawn to a method of preparing a quaternary ammonium carbonate.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; and request rejoinder of Groups I and II.

The claim of Group II (claim 16) includes the sole step recited in the claims of Group I (claims 1-15). In particular, claim 16 recites reacting a quaternary ammonium bromide or chloride with a metal hydroxide in an aminoalcohol solvent to yield a quaternary ammonium hydroxide, as recited in claims 1-15. Claim 16 further recites reacting the quaternary ammonium hydroxide with a carbonate or bicarbonate source to yield a quaternary ammonium carbonate. Therefore, if the claims of Group I are patentable, so too is the claim of Group II, and the search and examination of the claims of Groups I and II together would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. See MPEP §803. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the claims of Groups I and II be examined together.

In order to be fully responsive, applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-15, for further prosecution.

Dated: April 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jay P. Lessler

Registration No.: 41,151

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant